

To what extent, if any, do any of the current agency guidelines constrain competitor collaborations so as to prevent firms from adopting new ways to compete more effectively? How? To what extent, if any, do agency guidelines affect the strategic decisions of companies? How?

In what areas, if any, is agency guidance through guidelines inadequate for the current needs of business? What are those areas, and what are the perceived inadequacies? To what extent could such inadequacies be remedied through changes in or additions to the current guidelines, and to what extent would effective remedies require more targeted fact-specific advice in the form of advisory opinions?

FTC Advisory Opinions

How often do you ask for Commission or staff advisory opinions regarding new types of competitor collaborations? In what types of circumstance do you use those procedures? Are these circumstance in which you do not use them? Why?

What are the advantages and disadvantages, from a business viewpoint, of obtaining a Commission or staff advisory opinion about the antitrust legality of a proposed or current collaboration among competitors?

DATES: Any interested person may submit written comments by August 1, 1997. Request to participate in public hearings should be submitted by May 16, 1997, or earlier if at all possible. Such request should identify the requesting party and briefly state the matter that the party wishes to address at the hearings. Public hearing will be

held beginning June 2, 1997, at the Federal Trade Commission, Room 332, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

ADDRESSES: To facilitate efficient review of public comments, all comments should be submitted in written and electronic form. Electronic submissions may be made in one of two ways. They may be filed on either a 5¼ or 3½ inch computer disk, with a label on the disk stating the name of the commenter and the name and version of the work processing program used to create the document. (Programs based on DOS or Windows 3.1 are acceptable. Files from other operating systems should be submitted in ASCII text format.) Alternatively, electronic submission may be sent by electronic mail to jventures@ftc.gov. Submission should be captioned "Comment on Issues relating to Joint Venture Project" and addressed to Donald S. Clark, Office of the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20580.

Notice of interest in participating in the hearings also should be addressed in writing to the Office of the Secretary at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Policy Planning staff at (202) 326-3712.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission is examining its role in enforcing antitrust laws in light of the above issues. Public comments and hearings are expected to provide information relevant to determining what, if any, actions may be desirable. The Commission has general authority under the FTC Act to interpret its

substantive laws through guidelines, advisory opinions, and policy statements.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-10853 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Granting of Request for Early Termination of the Waiting Period Under the Premerger Notification Rules

Section 7A of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 18a, as added by Title II of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, requires persons contemplating certain mergers or acquisitions to give the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General advance notice and to wait designated periods before consummation of such plans. Section 7A(b)(2) of the Act permits the agencies, in individual cases, to terminate this waiting period prior to its expiration and requires that notice of this action be published in the **Federal Register**.

The following transactions were granted early termination of the waiting period provided by law and the premerger notification rules. The grants were made by the Federal Trade Commission and the Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice. Neither agency intends to take any action with respect to these proposed acquisitions during the applicable waiting period.

TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION BETWEEN: 033197 AND 041197

Name of acquiring person, name of acquired person, name of acquired entity	PMN No.	Date terminated
Reilly Family Limited Partnership, Appleton, Inc., Penn Advertising, Inc	97-1286	03/31/97
SunGard Data Systems, Inc., Safeguard Scientifics, Inc., Premier Solutions, Inc	97-1454	03/31/97
Ford Motor Company, American Federal Bank, FSB, Finance South, Inc	97-1461	03/31/97
Fiserv, Inc., BHC Financial, Inc., BHC Financial, Inc	97-1462	03/31/97
Ford Motor Company, General Acceptance Corporation, General Acceptance Corporation	97-1478	03/31/97
Vital Signs, Inc., Mr. Robert P. Scherer, Jr., Marquest Medical Products, Inc; Scherer Healthcare, Inc.	97-1568	03/31/97
Metal Management, Inc., Bank of Boston Corporation, Reserve Iron & Metal Limited Partnership	97-1591	03/31/97
Trinity Industries, Inc., Thomas C. Weller, Jr., Maritime Holdings, Inc	97-1435	04/01/97
Dennis C. Hayes, Paul G. Allen, Cardinal Technologies, Inc	97-1541	04/01/97
TransTechnology Corporation, Robert H. Bradley, TCR Corporation	97-1590	04/01/97
Telco Communication Group, Inc., International Business Machine Corporation, Advantis	97-1598	04/01/97
Morgan Stanley Capital Partners III, L.P., Plymouth Rock Company Incorporated, Direct Response Corporation	97-1599	04/01/97
Highlands Insurance Group, Inc., Alexander M. Vik, Vik Brothers Insurance Inc	97-1603	04/01/97
Cable Design Technologies Corporation, Dearborn Wire & Cable, L.P., Dearborn Wire & Cable, L.P. and Affiliates	97-1606	04/01/97
Swiss Reinsurance Company, Societe Anonyme Francaise de Reassurances, Societe Anonyme Francaise de Reassurances	97-1612	04/01/97
InaCom Corp., Elizabeth A. Heddens, Bethco, Inc	97-1619	04/01/97
Cyrk, Inc., Dwight J. Drake, Tonkin, Inc	97-1626	04/01/97
Parfinance, Nord Resources Corporation, Nord Kaolin Company	97-1494	04/02/97
BCE Inc., BCE Inc., Bell Atlantic Meridian Systems	97-1569	04/02/97
Golder, Thoma, Cressey, Rauner Fund IV, L.P., The KB Mezzanine Fund, L.P., Reliable Holding Corporation ..	97-1627	04/03/97

TRANSACTIONS GRANTED EARLY TERMINATION BETWEEN: 033197 AND 041197—Continued

Name of acquiring person, name of acquired person, name of acquired entity	PMN No.	Date terminated
BJC Health System, Coventry Corporation, Group Health Plan, Inc	97-1558	04/04/97
Jefferson-Pilot Corporation, The Chubb Corporation, Chubb Life Insurance Company of American	97-1607	04/04/97
Lawrence H. Miller and Karen G. Miller, Graye H. Wolfe, Sr. and Timbre Wolfe, Wolfe Automotive, Inc	97-1625	04/04/97
American Standard Companies, Inc., Fiat S.p.A. (an Italian company), INCSTAR Corporation	97-1636	04/04/97
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Skoog Family Limited Partnership (The), American Bumper Manufacturing Company	97-1640	04/04/97
Equilease Holding Corp, General Aquatics, Inc., General Aquatics, Inc	97-1645	04/04/97
I.C.H. Corporation, Harold C. Simmons Family Trust No. 2, Sybra, Inc	97-1647	04/04/97
Tultex Corporation, California Shirt Sales, Inc., California Shirt Sales, Inc	97-1651	04/04/97
Rental Service Corporation, Roy B. Bush, Comtect, Inc	97-1652	04/04/97
Pharmacia & Upjohn, Inc. (a British company), Geron Corporation, Geron Corporation	97-1654	04/04/97
Blyth Industries, Inc., Mr. and Mrs. Ennio V. Racinelli, Endar Corporation	97-1655	04/04/97
Mr. & Mrs. Ennio V. Racinelli, Blyth Industries, Blyth Industries	97-1656	04/04/97
Bunzl plc, WBT Holdings, LLC, Americana Filtrona Corporation	97-1658	04/04/97
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, DSV Partners IV Limited Partnership, Pressure Systems, Inc	97-1659	04/04/97
Lewis B. Cullman, Day Dream, Inc., Day Dream, Inc	97-1660	04/04/97
Corning Incorporated, Optical Corporation of America, Optical Corporation of America	97-1664	04/04/97
Bayard Drilling Technologies, Inc., Harold G. Hamm, Trustee/H.G.H. Revocable Inter Vivos, Trend Drilling Company	97-1666	04/04/97
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc., Albert H. Wohlers & Co., Albert H. Wohlers & Co	97-1669	04/04/97
Beckman Instruments, Inc., Elf Aquitaine, Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur, Inc	97-1670	04/04/97
Marubeni Corporation, Michael L. Lazarus, The Lazarus Auto Group, Inc	97-1673	04/04/97
Marubeni Corporation, Bryan A. Lazarus, The Lazarus Auto Group, Inc	97-1674	04/04/97
United Auto Group, Inc., Alan K. Arnold, Wade Ford, Inc. and Wade Ford Buford, Inc	97-1677	04/04/97
United Auto Group, Inc., Marshal D. Mize, Marshal D. Mize Ford, Inc	97-1678	04/04/97
Carondelet Health System, Inc., St. Joseph's Health System, Inc., St. Joseph's Health System, Inc	97-1679	04/04/97
NUI Corporation, James N. Greiff, T.I.C. Enterprises, L.L.C.	97-1681	04/04/97
Solvay S.A., The Dexter Corporation, D&S Plastics International	97-1687	04/04/97
United States Filter Corporation, DQE, Inc., Chester Engineers, Inc	97-1693	04/04/97
DEL-LPL Limited Partnership, The Galbreath Company, The Galbreath Company	97-1709	04/04/97
Philip Environmental Inc., Ferrex Trading Corporation, Ferrex Trading Corporation	97-1483	04/07/97
Philip Environmental Inc., The Issac Corporation, The Issac Corporation	97-1484	04/07/97
Quantum Fund N.V., WMX Technologies, Inc., WMX Technologies, Inc	97-1542	04/07/97
ReliaStar Financial Corporation, Security-Connecticut Corporation, Security-Connecticut Corporation	97-1588	04/07/97
PennCorp Financial Group, Inc., Knightsbridge Capital Fund I, L.P., Southwestern Financial Corporation	97-1641	04/07/97
The First American Financial Corporation, Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe V. L.P., Strategic Mortgage Services, Inc. (Ohio)	97-1667	04/07/97
Computer Sciences Corporation, E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company, Conoco, Inc	97-1672	04/07/97
ABRY Broadcast Partners II, L.P., ML Media Opportunity Partners, L.P., Fabri Development Corporation	97-1680	04/07/97
Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc., James T. Moore, II, Invetech Company	97-1685	04/07/97
Chesterman Company, Rodney P. Burwell, Chippewa Springs, Ltd	97-1688	04/07/97
Solvay S.A., Solvay S.A., D&S Plastics International	97-1690	04/07/97
Molten Metal Technology, Inc., Lockheed Martin Corporation, M4 Environmental L.P., M4 Environmental Management, Inc	97-1696	04/07/97
Norwest Corporation, Dean A. Sundquist, Command Tooling Systems Inc	97-1703	04/07/97
Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc., J. Michael Moore, Invetech Company	97-1707	04/07/97
Lockheed Martin Corporation, Molten Metal Technology, Inc., Retech Division of M4 Environmental, L.P	97-1712	04/07/97
American Express Company, Checkers, Simon & Rosner LLP, Checkers, Simon & Rosner LLP	97-1578	04/08/97
Glaxo Wellcome plc, Mayo Foundation, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research	97-1613	04/08/97
Nabors Industries, Inc., Charles Schusterman, Samson Rig Company & Rig Properties, Inc	97-1633	04/08/97
Motorola, Inc., Bracebridge International Limited, Celcom, Inc	97-1637	04/08/97
Southwest Securities Group, Inc., Nathan Newman, Equity Securities Trading Company, Inc	97-1623	04/09/97
Hoyts Cinemas America Limited (A Barbados company), William J. Hanney, East Bridgwater Cinema Corp., Sharon Cinema Corp	97-1624	04/09/97
H.I.G. Investment Group, L.P., Michael G. Sanderson, TABJAA, Inc.; Milliken & Michaels of Louisiana, Inc	97-1665	04/09/97
Robert H. Chapman, Bemis Company, Inc., Hayssen Manufacturing Co. & Accraply, Inc	97-1671	04/09/97
Lincoln Equity Fund, L.P., The Cerplex Group, Inc., Peripheral Computer Support, Inc	97-1704	04/09/97
The Montana Power Company, VOG Partners, L.P., Vessels Hydrocarbons, Inc	97-1551	04/10/97
Ralcorp Holdings, Inc., Wortz Company, Wortz Company	97-1585	04/10/97
Sybron International Corporation, Riverside Fund I, L.P., Remel Limited Partnership	97-1609	04/10/97
Calpine Corporation, Dominion Resources, Inc., Enron/Dominion Cogen Corporation	97-1587	04/11/97
Charter, plc, Howden Group plc, Howden Group plc	97-1635	04/11/97

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sandra M. Peay or Parcellena P.
Fielding, Contact Representatives,
Federal Trade Commission, Premerger
Notification Office, Bureau of

Competition, Room 303, Washington,
DC 20580, (202) 326-3100.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-10852 Filed 4-25-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M